(d) The details of the licences issued so far as follows;

Name	Annual Capacity
1. Electronics Corpn. of India Limited (ECIL), Hyderabad.	2,000 nos.
2. Scantel Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi.	2,000 nos.

In addition fourteen (14) applications are under consideration of the Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Balloon Studies

2162. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in "Indian Express" dated 6th November, 1988 wherein it has been stated that Balloon Studies received a minor setback when a zero-pressure balloon with scientific equipment, intended to carry out an experiment designed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), to study aerosol particles in the atmosphere, launched from Hyderabad failed to stay afloat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the Press Report is not correct. An official denial was also issued to the Press immediately. The balloon was launched successfully on November 5, 1988 from Hyderabad and reached an altitude of 16.5 k.m. Successful measurement of aerosol concentration profiles were made between 2-16 5 k.m. altitude region both during the accent and descent of the balloon, thus fulfilling the primary objective of the experiment as part of the aerosols campaign under the Indian Middle Atmosphere Programme (IMAP). The experimental payload was designed by the scientists of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad and the balloon, its instrumentation and launch support were provided by the National Balloon Facility, Hyderabad.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Missile testing range in Karnataka

2163. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sites for long range test firing involving a variety of disciplines and technologies has been found in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has big plans for expansion in the State for missiles test ranging programme; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Centre had requested the Karnataka Government for handing over Markandeya and Marihal ranges in Belgaum to the Defence Research and Development Organisation on a permanent basis; and

(d) if so, whether the State Government has agreed to the proposal, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Defence Research & Development Organisation is exploring certain sites in Karnataka for setting up a test firing range for gun ammunition, mortar and similar systems. There